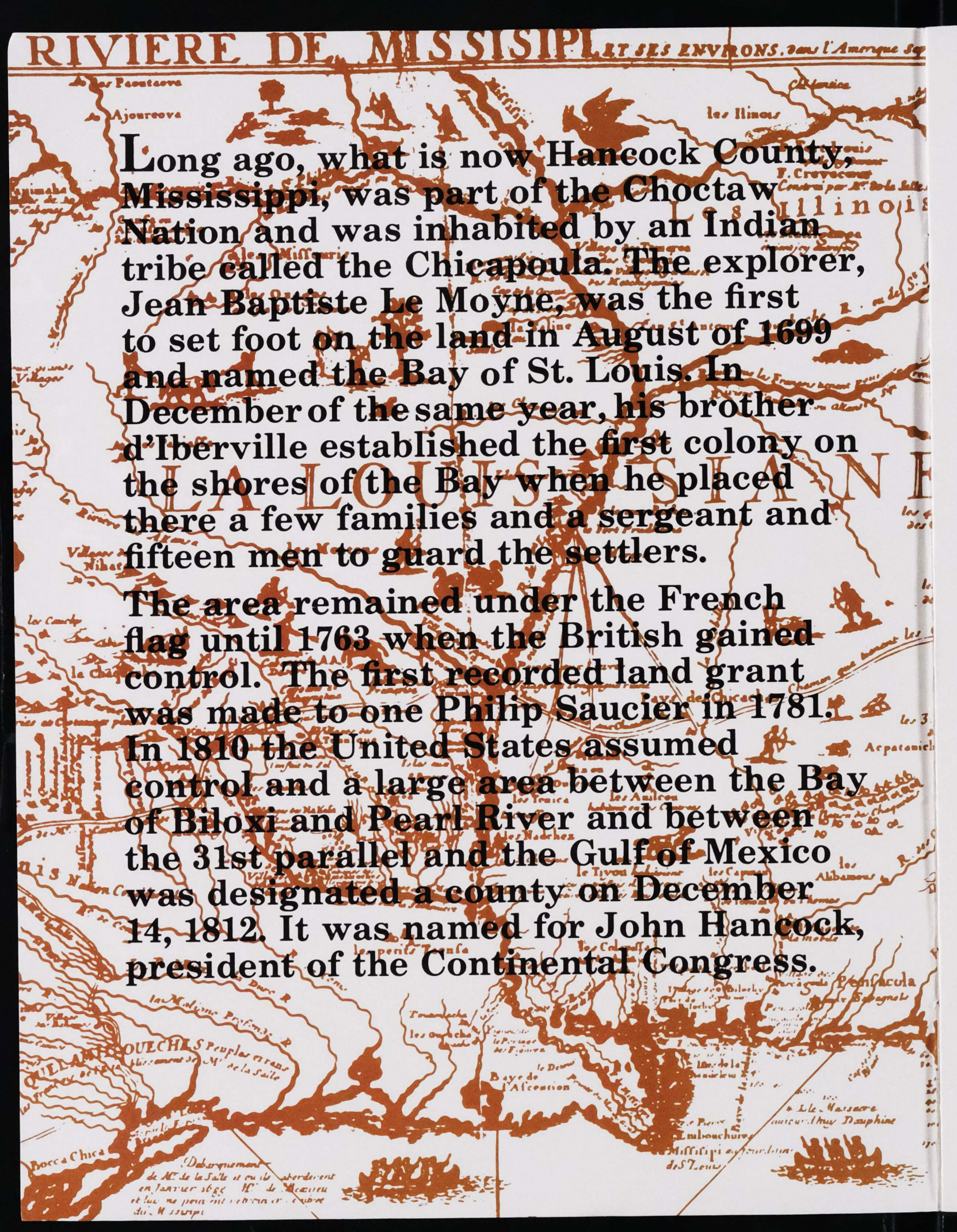


HANCOCK COUNTY

MISSISSIPPI



Come live
with us ...



Long ago, what is now Hancock County, Mississippi, was part of the Choctaw Nation and was inhabited by an Indian tribe called the Chicapoula. The explorer, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, was the first to set foot on the land in August of 1699 and named the Bay of St. Louis. In December of the same year, his brother d'Iberville established the first colony on the shores of the Bay when he placed there a few families and a sergeant and fifteen men to guard the settlers.

The area remained under the French flag until 1763 when the British gained control. The first recorded land grant was made to one Philip Saucier in 1781. In 1810 the United States assumed control and a large area between the Bay of Biloxi and Pearl River and between the 31st parallel and the Gulf of Mexico was designated a county on December 14, 1812. It was named for John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress.



*Old Customs House
building—erected 1790.*

The present counties of Harrison, Stone, and Pearl River were later carved from the original Hancock County.

The city of Bay St. Louis was once a port of entry and in 1790 a building was erected to serve as customs house. It still stands today in an excellent state of preservation and is used as a private residence.

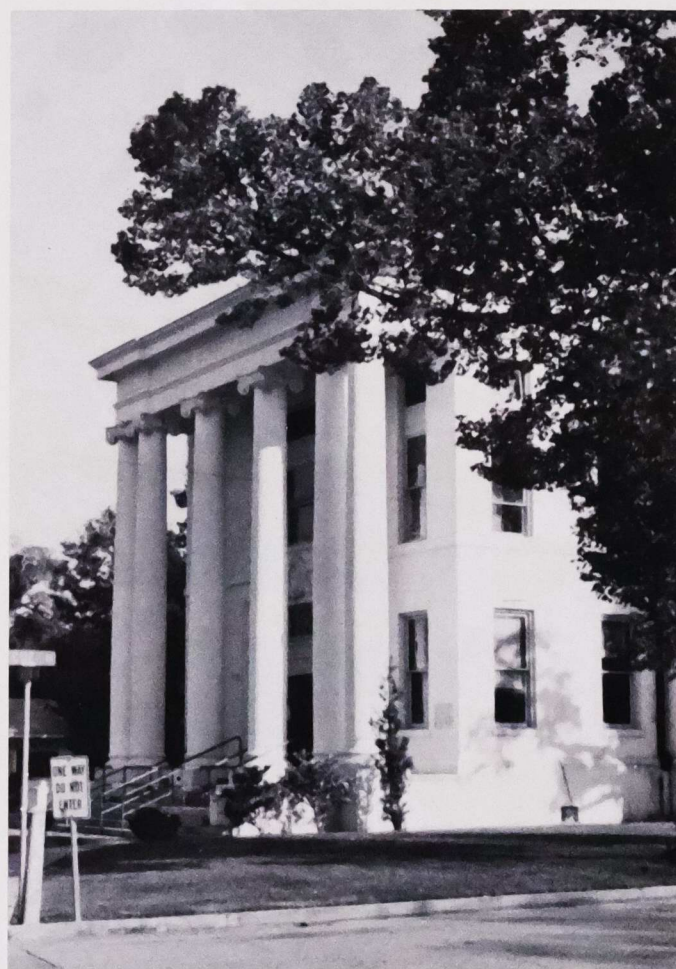
For some years, the county seat was the town of Gainesville on the Pearl River, where the National Space Technology Laboratories are now located. After a fire destroyed the courthouse in the spring of 1853, the town of Bay St. Louis became the center of government and received the official designation as county seat in 1860.



*Breath home—
built 1819.*



Stennis International Airport.



Courthouse—Bay St. Louis.



County Fair Grounds.



Hancock General Hospital.



Vo-Tech School at airport.



Interchange—Interstate 10 and State 603.

Today, Hancock County is in a second era of discovery. The new "settlements" can be found on the Pearl River, where the county's Port and Harbor Commission has created a 2,200 acre industrial area and farther upstream a giant government complex, formerly Mississippi Test Facility, now renamed National Space Technology Laboratories, is steadily increasing in activity. Then, across the county, on the shores of the Bay of St. Louis and Jourdan River, much new residential construction has appeared, the most exciting development being the beautiful community of Diamondhead on the north shores of the Bay.

Over the county line, but not too distant for easy commuting by county residents, the DuPont Company of Wilmington, Delaware, has a new plant site and in the center of the county, a new airport, with a 8,500 ft. runway, is strategically located to accommodate apparent growth trends.

The county covers an area of 485 square miles and nearly one-third of its 310,400 acres is involved in the NSTL facility. There is considerable acreage involved in agricultural pursuits, these including dairying, cattle, poultry, and tree farming. As can be expected in a coastline county, there is local economic importance in a number of commercial fishing ventures located in the Bayou Cadet area, west of the city of Waveland.

Several motels and restaurants cater to the traveling public as do a number of candy and souvenir shops on U.S. Highway 90, which is an east/west motor route near the coastline. Farther inland, Interstate 10 is also an east/west route. A hospitality center at the intersection of State 607 and eastbound lane on I-10 provides visitors state and local information. A second hospitality center in Waveland open seven days a week, provides local information.

Running through the county east and west near the coastline is the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and Greyhound and Trailways bus lines serve local residents.

Shopping centers are located in the two incorporated towns of Waveland and Bay St. Louis and national and regional chain stores are located in both.

Most major denominations are represented by the churches throughout the county. There is an excellent program to assist, and provide entertainment for, the senior citizens. There is countywide ambulance service, a modern 54 bed hospital, health department and clinic, several doctors and dentists, and a veterinarian maintains a small animal clinic.

The county's four-school system operates busses which reach all parts of the county to afford transportation for young people. There is also a parochial school in the county area in addition to the parochial, private, and public schools in the incorporated areas. A vo-tech school, part of the area's junior college system, is located at the airport. Hancock County is part of the Pearl River Junior College District. The college is located at Poplarville, with daily bus service for Hancock students.

National Space Technology Laboratories.



Port Bienville Industrial Park.



Forest lands support timber and pulpwood industries and provide recreation.



New City-County Library building.



Pecan grove.



Church at Kiln.



Community Center, Pearlington.



Hickory Creek.

City-County Library, located in Bay St. Louis, is one of the best in south Mississippi and extends its services directly to the far corners of the county by means of a bookmobile.

A county agents office and an office of the Mississippi Forestry Commission provide assistance to landowners. A county fair is held each October at the County Fair Grounds near Waveland.

The Bay, rivers, and bayous of the county are a tremendous drawing card to homeseekers and a lure to lovers of water sports. The mild climate beckons the garden enthusiast for growing season is year-round and camellias and azaleas "grow like weeds".

At the western end of Waveland is Buccaneer State Park. This is one of the newest of Mississippi's State Parks and was the first park to be developed in the Gulf Coast area of the state in over forty years. It was designed to be one of Mississippi's finest and has the potential to become one of the state's leading parks because of its excellent coastline location. The park covers 400 acres of land which includes a mile long beach front area.

The design includes camping areas, swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball court, shuffleboard court, entrance building, activities building, three bath houses, two picnic pavillions with rest rooms, one comfort station, maintenance building, playground, and manager's residence.

The camping area is designed to be the first Class A camping area in the state. Total cost for the first phase of the project is nearly \$2 million.

A second park in Hancock County designed for a \$1 million budget, was opened in May 1975 by the State of Mississippi and is located inland on Jourdan River. This 328 acres tract of woodland is known as McLeod Memorial Park and was donated to the state by National Space Technology Laboratories. It is a project of the Pearl River Basin Development District and is one of a series of water parks planned by that organization.

Hancock County is bordered on the west by the Pearl River, making it the next-door neighbor to the city of New Orleans, where all of the big city advantages are available. Only a short drive by way of Interstate 10 will bring you in about an hour to a world of opera, symphony orchestras, Broadway plays, or other sophisticated entertainment, plus Mardi Gras, art galleries and museums, the world famous French Quarter, and the spectacular Super Dome.

When close-to-home leisure time pursuits are preferred, the Bay-Waveland Yacht Club, Pass Christian Isles Golf Club, and the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre, offer varied opportunities. Local Mardi Gras organizations participate in the traditional pre-Lenten festivities on a smaller, but most impressive scale.

Summer programs for youth run the gamut from sports, including Little League, and sailing classes, to cultural programs in the performing and graphic arts conducted by the Junior Auxiliary and reading programs and story hours at the library.

What more could one say of Hancock County than what its residents state quite simply, "It's a good place to live".



DIAMONDHEAD

Hancock County's largest and most beautiful suburban residential complex borders a part of the north shore of the Bay of St. Louis, is bounded in part by picturesque Jourdan River and has direct access to Interstate 10.

This is Diamondhead, a development which has become recognized as an outstanding example of resort-residential living, developed in an area of great natural beauty with imaginative land use and compatible architectural design.

Neighborhood recreation centers are located throughout the Diamondhead community, complete with swimming and wading pools, showers, sundecks and picnic areas. A fabulous country club, yacht club and marina, a superb 18 hole golf course, tennis courts, and riding stables, are all part of the vibrant complex where a veritable "Paradise" on the Gulf of Mexico is building and growing.

In addition to the usual house-and-property residential situation, which are many and varied and consistently attractive throughout the development, Diamondhead offers some of the most luxurious and well appointed condominium dwellings in the area. Designed to harmonize with

their environment, for Diamondhead was planned around preservation of the existing woodland, the views from the different units offer scenic delights which change with the seasons. Great live oaks, tall pines, magnolias and springtime's glory, the flowering dogwood, all provide an incomparable backdrop for the fortunate resident. The condominium dwelling units come in a number of sizes and floor plans.

Condominium owners share in all of the membership advantages of single residence owners plus the advantages of freedom from most maintenance. Grounds surrounding the cluster homes are exquisitely landscaped, owners share an interest in all common areas and enjoy quality conveniences and facilities. Private security patrols and membership in the Country Club, Golf and Tennis Clubs, Yacht Club and Marina, are all part of the package in this new, carefree way of home ownership.



For those who wish to avoid the worries and complications of usual home and yard maintenance, these beautiful condominiums are surely the answer. They are ideal as either vacation or full-time residences and owners can come and go as they please, assured everything will be taken care of in their absence.

Diamondhead is a private community boasting its own airstrip, space reserved for a shopping center and a school, and was, from its inception, dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of its environment.

To fully describe Diamondhead is difficult, because one must not diminish nature's part of the plan by elaborating too long on the delightful decor or superb gourmet cuisine at the country club, the relaxing atmosphere of its delightful lounge, or wax eloquent over the charm of the new Yacht Club and Marina, for Diamondhead is a unique experience, beautiful, surprising, thoroughly captivating, and truly must be seen to be appreciated.

Hancock County is justly proud of Diamondhead and knows it can point with pride to being the location of South Mississippi's finest residential community, for Diamondhead is a "one-of-a-kind" residential opportunity in the region.





One of the many mini-parks in Bay St. Louis.



Charming cottage in traditional style.



Contemporary design built by Hancock Builders, Inc.

BAY ST. LOUIS

Bay St. Louis is the County Seat of Hancock County and is located on the western shores of the Bay of St. Louis. Dating back to its 1699 colonization, it can claim to be among the oldest cities on the Gulf Coast.

For a time the city was known as Shieldsboro but reverted to its original name of Bay St. Louis. It is a relaxed, easy-to-live-in sort of town with friendliness the predominating trait of its people. They appreciate the contentment they find in this charming residential community with many churches, good schools for their children, and work opportunities at easy commuting distances in all directions. Many people work in the town, for retail and service establishments offer all needed goods and services.

The municipal school system, which extends beyond the municipal boundaries, is made up of two elementary schools, a junior high school, and a senior high school. There are also three private schools, Christ Episcopal School, Our Lady's Academy for girls, and St. Stanislaus for boys, and two parochial schools, Our Lady of the Gulf and St. Rose De Lima.



Bay-Waveland Yacht Club.



Little Leaguers.



Two Bay St. Louis shopping centers.



Spacious campus of Bay St. Louis Senior High School.

Bay St. Louis has two shopping centers and several apartment complexes. There is also a business district in the vicinity of the courthouse. It is not an industrial city but is a plant location of an internationally known manufacturer of aluminum wire and cable, Alcan Cable Company.

There is a weekly newspaper, the Sea Coast Echo, and two coastwide dailies, a local radio station, WPUP, eight other coastwide radio stations and a coastwide TV station.

The city maintains water, sewerage, natural gas and sanitation departments and an excellent fire department and police department.

Numerous playgrounds are located throughout the city as well as tennis courts and ball fields where Little League games draw considerable participation. There are also adult and young adult softball leagues. Two public piers invite residents for fishing and crabbing. Seasonal events include regattas, golf tournaments, Mardi Gras parades and balls, fishing rodeos, a Home and Garden Pilgrimage sponsored by the local Garden Clubs, and year-round performances at the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre. Civic clubs, sportmen groups, and hobby clubs all invite participation.

"Something for everyone" is no false claim in this friendly small city, the choice is entirely up to the individual.



Sailing appeals to younger set.



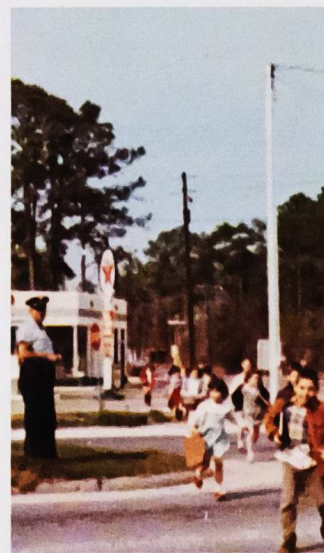
Christ Episcopal Church, Bay St. Louis.



Bog plants in woodland.



Square dancers.



School crossing.



Wild azaleas.



Goldenrod borders pecan orchard.



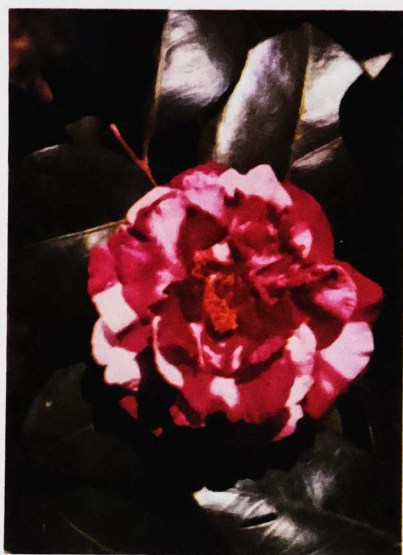
View near McLeod Park.



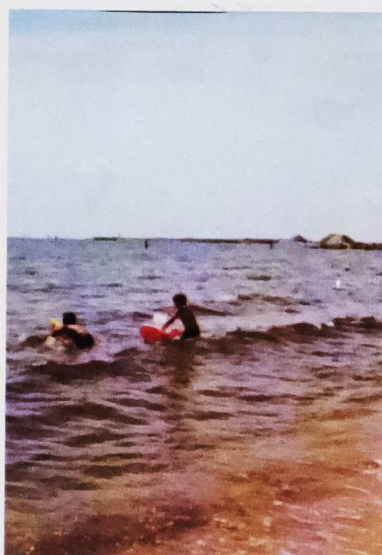
Hybrid persimmons.



Playground at Waveland School.



Camellia



Swimming in the Sound.



Pearl River Junior College Campus



Nereids Mardi Gras Ball.



Residential neighborhood.



Fishing pier.



New shopping center.



Beach home.

WAVELAND

The city of Waveland, although the smaller of the county's two incorporated towns, has been growing during the past five years at a rate unprecedented in its long history. Once mainly a summer resort, today the town is alive with activity and taking on a bright new face as construction and new business rejuvenates the once sleepy seaside town into a viable community.

Two shopping areas and three motels, one of which is the county's largest, reflect the general upswing in the business community. One of the trade areas is a new shopping center on U.S. 90 which opened in late 1974. Large chain stores are represented in this center.

Waveland has been most prudent in restricting its beach front as completely residential with the result that it now is the only city on Mississippi's Gulf Coast where there is no commercial intrusion and thereby displays a continuous panorama of lovely homes and gardens the entire length of the beach drive. It may well be that Waveland is one of the few cities in the nation to claim this distinction. Regardless, the situation can only enhance the value of these lovely properties as time goes on and distinguish the town for its consistency in this respect.



Waveland School.



Tennis courts at park.



Nereids parade.



Playground at park.

The newest public elementary school in the two city area is in Waveland. There is also a parochial elementary school, St. Clare's. The City-County Library maintains a Waveland Branch.

Churches of several denominations welcome residents and many community activities are held at the new American Legion Hall and the St. Clare's Parish Hall.

The Waveland Civic Club and the Nereids Krewe both have large memberships and contribute much to community life with annual St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras parades.

City services and utilities are up-to-date and the city has a recently installed sewerage system, newly surfaced streets, and modern fire fighting equipment and vehicles for fire departments and police. The city's recreation department provides an attractive, completely fenced-in, tree-shaded municipal park equipped with tennis courts, softball field, basketball courts, playground equipment, and picnic shelter, and there is a rip rap fishing jetty in addition to a second playground at the water's edge.

Waveland provides the kind of living environment that people in large cities think no longer exists. Once discovered, the lure of this better life appears to be irresistible—and perhaps herein lies the secret of Waveland's new vitality.



Wild daisies.



Pine forest.



Camellias.



View near McLeod Park.



Bayou Cadet.



Mulatto Bayou



Sunset over Gulf.

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce wishes to hereby acknowledge the cooperation of those listed below whose assistance made production of this book possible.

Diamondhead Corporation

Hancock County Board of Supervisors

The Sea Coast Echo

Hancock Bank

South Central Bell

Hancock Builders, Inc.

Gulf National Bank

Mississippi Power Company

Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission

The City of Bay St. Louis

Gulf Publishing Company

The City of Waveland

Coast Electric Power Association

More detailed information on the facilities of the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission may be had by writing—Office of the Director, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, 39520.

Specific information about Diamondhead may be obtained by contacting Sales Manager, Diamondhead, Post Office Box 22, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, 39520.

Any additional information concerning Hancock County is available by contacting—Manager, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, 39520.

